



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
State Office  
100 USDA, Suite 206  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655  
Telephone (405) 742-1236

September 4, 2003

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-3-5**

**SUBJECT: LTP – Clarification of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) 26<sup>th</sup> Signup  
Conservation Plan Development Requirements**

**Purpose:** To provide field offices additional information on conservation planning requirements for annual maintenance, required management, and cover requirements for CRP 26<sup>th</sup> Signup conservation plan/contract development.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2003

**Action Required By September 26, 2003**

Bulletin OK300-3-4 provided initial information regarding the approval of CRP applications for conservation plan development for a total of 500 offers in 29 counties in Oklahoma. Beginning with the CRP 26<sup>th</sup> Signup, there are additional planning and application requirements for the accepted offers. As indicated in the attachment to the previous bulletin, there are certain specific required management activities for the planned cover in addition to the annual maintenance requirements. These required cover management practices (mowing or burning, and nutrient management evaluation) are mandatory and must be planned and carried out according to the specified timing and frequency for the offered cover type as outlined in the table attached to the previous bulletin. Light disking, however, is an optional practice that may be exercised at the request of the producer to obtain the desired result only once within the contract period (exclusive of the 10<sup>th</sup> year). Cost-share is available for application of all of the required management practices within specified limits (NTE \$50 per acre per for any year; NTE \$100 per acre total for the life of a 10-year contract; or NTE \$125 per acre total for the life of a contract in excess of 11 years). Planners will also be required to determine the appropriate cover type selected by the applicant and schedule accordingly in the conservation plan.

**Annual Maintenance and Required Management** - Because of the difference in the annual maintenance and required management practices, separate **327 – Conservation Cover** practices, will need to be scheduled in the conservation plan. One of these will outline the recurring annual maintenance requirements and associated payments, along with the accepted rental rate, for the term of the contract. The other will schedule the selected required management treatment according to the cover type, timing, and frequency. In addition, the participant will be required to select either mowing or burning and apply one or the other (not both) according to the timing and frequency for the offered cover type. The Ecological Sciences and Conservation Planning Section has developed sample narratives addressing the annual maintenance and required management, along with a sample AD-1155 using the narratives, which are provided as attachments to this bulletin. The narratives should be adapted to local conditions and downloaded into Customer Service Toolkit (CST) for CRP conservation plan development. Assistance with this process may be obtained from the local/team CST contact. An updated cost list and component definitions will also be provided with the appropriate practice components to address the required management practices.

**(MORE)**

**DIST: AO**

**Planning/Scheduling Appropriate Cover Type** – Planners will need to pay close attention to information provided on the CRP-2 relative to the practices (CP1, CP2, CP3, etc.) and the category for which points were scored under subfactor N1a. Planned practices and seeding mixtures should accurately reflect those established in the accepted offer. Planners should refer to Oklahoma Technical Note, Biology OK-30 (May 2, 2003) for developing planned seeding mixtures and shrub/tree planting requirements for the accepted offer cover type. For example, a CRP-2 with the practice CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses with an N1a score of 50 points would require “A mixture of five or more native species containing at least 80% of 3 grasses and at least 10% of one forb or legume listed in 550 – Range Planting Table 1. No more than 2 percent can be annuals.” All grass plantings will be planned and applied according to the applicable standard and specification.

**Practice Scheduling** – Practices planned will be based on the program year that the CRP contract becomes effective. Ten year contracts beginning October 1, 2003, will have recurring practices scheduled beginning with 2004 and continuing through 2013.

Field Offices that have developed plans and have already obtained signatures before receiving this guidance are not expected to go back and make corrections. These may be modified to the required format at a later date. Plans developed after receipt of this bulletin will need to incorporate this guidance. Annual Maintenance and Required Management should not be confused with Managed Haying and Grazing. Managed Haying and Grazing may be allowed, at the producer's request, and must be approved by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). When allowed, Managed Haying and Grazing will result in the modification of an existing CRP contract at the request of FSA. Managed Haying and Grazing may not occur more than once in three years, may substitute for a schedule required management practice, and will result in a specified rental payment reduction. If you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please forward them to the appropriate Zone Program Liaison.

*John Glover, Acting For*

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist

Attachments

# Examples of Practice Narratives for CRP

**Narrative for the maintenance that is to be done every year of the contract:**

**327 – Conservation Cover**

**Narrative ID = MNT1**

Maintain established perennial vegetative cover on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Weed control measures will be performed during the life of the contract to prevent the spread of weeds from CRP fields to lands owned by others. Mowing for weed control is not permitted during the nesting period (May 1 to July 1) and no later than a date 60 days prior to the average date of the first killing frost in the fall. Mowing or burning to remove excessive plant growth (>5000 lbs/acre) will be completed as required.

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**Narrative for the management to be done for the incentive payment on introduced grasses, when the management activity will be mowing:**

**(Scheduled in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-1, or in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-10)**

**327 – Conservation Cover**

**Narrative ID = MGT1**

Mowing to enhance the health and vigor of the stand will be conducted in the years shown on the schedule. Mowing will be conducted between February 1 and April 1 with a minimum cutting height of 4 inches. A 30 foot buffer will be left around the perimeter of the field to provide escape cover for wildlife. Mowing operations will begin in the center of the field and work toward the outside to flush wildlife species outward.

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**Narrative for the management to be done for the incentive payment on native grasses, when the management activity will be mowing:**

**(Scheduled in the 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-2, or in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-10)**

**327 – Conservation Cover**

**Narrative ID = MGT2**

Mowing to enhance the health and vigor of the stand will be conducted in the years shown on the schedule. Mowing will be conducted between February 1 and April 1 with a minimum cutting height of 4 to 6 inches. A 30 foot buffer will be left around the perimeter of the field to provide escape cover for wildlife. Mowing operations will begin in the center of the field and work toward the outside to flush wildlife species outward.

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**Narrative for the management to be done for the incentive payment, scheduled for the applicable years, when the management activity will be burning:**

**(Scheduled in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-1, or in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-10 on introduced species)**

**(Scheduled in the 6<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-2, or in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, & 10<sup>th</sup> years on CP-10 on native grasses)**

**338 – Prescribed Burning**

**Narrative ID = PB1**

Burning to enhance the health and vigor of the stand will be conducted in the years shown in the contract. Burning will be implemented according to a Prescribed Burn Management Plan (OK-CPA-338).

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1. To be completed by NRCS; check appropriate box:

☒ This transaction is for CCC.

☐ This transaction is for NRCS.

OMB No. 0578-0013

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		CONSERVATION PLAN OR SCHEDULE OF OPERATIONS														
3.		5. STATE		6. CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT NO.						7. TOTAL ACRES UNDER CONTRACT						
		Oklahoma		CRP Contract Number						112						
<p><b>NOTE:</b> This is a sample only of a few CRP practices with practice narratives. It does not include all the required practices. Planners will need to plan based on the practices used in ranking and local considerations and resource needs.</p>																
CONTRACT ITEM NUMBER	FIELD	PLANNED CONSERVATION TREATMENT (Record of Decisions)	ESTIMATED AMOUNT (UNITS)	COST BASIS \$	COST SHARE OR PAYMENT RATE %	COMPLETION SCHEDULE AND ESTIMATED COST-SHARE OR PAYMENT BY YEAR (For Non-Cost Share Items Show Units)										REF. NO.
						14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
						2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
8	9	10	11	12	13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
<p>CONSERVATION COVER (327) - Maintain established perennial vegetative cover on land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. Weed control measures will be performed during the life of the contract to prevent the spread of weeds from CRP fields to lands owned by others. Mowing for weed control is not permitted during the nesting period (May 1 to July 1) and no later than a date 60 days prior to the average date of the first killing frost in the fall. Mowing or burning to remove excessive plant growth (&gt;5000 lbs/acre) will be completed as required.</p>																
1	Tract: 298 Fields: 2,5	CONSERVATION COVER (327)	112 ac.		\$28,000											
1a		CRP Maintenance Fee	112.0 AC	5.00	100.0% FR	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560	\$560
1b		CRP Rental Rate	112.0 AC	20.00	100.0% FR	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240	\$2,240
<p>PEST MANAGEMENT (595) - Thistle will be controlled in accordance with the attached OK-CPA-16, Integrated Pest/Brush Management Plan.</p>																
2	Tract: 298 Fields: 2,5	PEST MANAGEMENT (595)	112 ac.		\$728											
2a		Grazing Lands -Thistle weed control, Chemical (PM)	112.0 AC	13.00	50.00%	\$728										
<p>NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (590) - Old world bluestem CRP fields will be evaluated for application of nutrients as scheduled. Apply commercial fertilizer according to a current soil test analysis for maintenance of the grass stand. Refer to OSU Extension Fact Sheet F-2207, "How to Get a Good Soil Sample" for proper sampling procedures. The soil samples will be provided to the local OSU County Extension Service or a soil test lab that uses the Melich-3 phosphorus extraction method and is also a member of the North American Proficiency Testing Program. The soil analysis will be provided to NRCS so that a nutrient budget and fertilizer recommendation can be developed. Apply commercial fertilizer according to the nutrient budget jobsheet, JS-590-01</p>																
3	Tract: 298 Fields: 2,5	NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (590)	112 ac.		\$4,660											
3a		Fertilizer (FT1)	112.0 AC	20.80	50.00%	\$1,165				\$1,165			\$1,165			\$1,165
<p>CONSERVATION COVER (327) - Mowing to enhance the health and vigor of the stand will be conducted in the years shown on the schedule. Mowing will be conducted between February 1 and April 1 with a minimum cutting height of 4 inches. A 30 foot buffer will be left around the perimeter of the field to provide escape cover for wildlife. Mowing operations will begin in the center of the field and work toward the outside to flush wildlife species outward.</p>																
4	Tract: 298 Fields: 2,5	CONSERVATION COVER (327)	112 ac.		\$1,904											
4a		Mechanical--Mowing/shredding weeds or cover (MW)	112.0 AC	8.50	50.00%	\$476			\$476			\$476			\$476	